

VARIA2009

proudly present

LiveArt - performance, lecture, concert, workshops...
International and Nordic artists from everywhere and nowhere...

10 october - 1 november

DANCE

MUSIC

VIDEO

LIGHT

Live Konst - föreställningar, föredrag/dialog, kurser...

Live Art - performance, lectures/dialogue, workshops...

VARIA - en lovsång till improvisation, möten mellan konstformer och mellan människor. VARIA2009 pågår från den 10 oktober till den 1 november.

Möt artister från Norden, Europa, Australien och USA och ta del av tankeväckande samtal med forskare.

Varje ögonblick innehåller sina egna möjligheter till både konstruktion och dekonstruktion samtidigt - varje ögonblick är unikt... **Välkommen**

VARIA - an acknowledgement to the art of improvisation, the interaction of multiple art forms and people. VARIA2009 from 10th October to 1st of November.

Meet performers from the Nordic countries, Europe, Australia and USA. Take part of stimulating discussion forums lead by researchers.

Each and every moment holds the possibility of simultaneous construction and deconstruction - each and every moment is unique... **Welcome**

Program VARIA2009
Atalante 18 - 25/10

VARIA2009; program in short.

18/10

17.00 - 19.00 - *Meet me in the Foyer* - Lecture by Cecilia Lagerström researcher, director and teacher at the Academy for Music and Drama in Gothenburg.

Perspectives on improvisation, on devising and on the relationship between artist involvement and audience experience.

A lecture/demonstration & open discussion with Cecilia Lagerström in collaboration with Helena Kågemark, performer and MA student. Theory, practice, discussion and art merge, in one and the same form...

21/10

19.30 - Opening speaker Nina Bondesson.

Nina is a visual artist and writer, promoting education and knowledge within the arts.

19.45 - *Biology Session Nr. 9* - Solo by Michael Schumacher dancer choreografer from Holland/USA.

Biology Session Nr. 9 is the most recent in a series of improvisation performances that Michael Schumacher initiated several years ago in Japan. In these events, Schumacher brings the realm of sensory perception into focus by creating a unique dialogue between himself and his environment. Seeing scent, smelling sound, and listening to light are a few of the thoughts proposed throughout this performance.

ca 21.15 - Concert by Vialka - Marylise Frecheville percussion & voice / Eric Boros guitar & voice.

Vialka hail from deepest France, via everywhere and nowhere. They are a devilishly high-spirited guitar/drums duo who tour hard and fast across the world. Their music skips joyfully across borders, channeling desert blues, Chinese folk songs, scatter rock and European gypsy song dynamics in a whirlwind of dervish energy. Their endless gypsy punk folk rock tales, hard hitting poly-rhythms and yelps and howls make for a danceable and intoxicating brew. The concert is an arrangement by Koloni/Christian Pallin and VARIA2009.

22/10

19.30 - Group performance I, by VARIA2009s Nordic group.

Unique performances, the interaction of media, comes together in dancers, Pia Lindy and Giorgio Convertito from Finland, video artist Mona Bentzen and dancer and musician Erikk McKenzie from Norway, video artist Christina Hallström from Sweden/Holland, musicians Lisa Dillan from Norway and Christian Skjødt from Denmark, Swedish light/stage designers Johan Rödström and Niklas Pohlman and dancer Lisa Larsdotter Petersson from Sweden.

ca 21.00 - *An empty room...* Solo by Sten Rudström movement and performance artist from Germany/USA.

...Sten Rudström enters the stage. He doesn't know what is going to happen. There's no script, no preconceived thoughts or ideas. From out of the emptiness he crafts a landscape of dance, speech and song. At the intersection of the present, imagination and life experience he morphs into stories of strange characters, pictures, places and things. A wild, unpredictable, unique journey through raw human nature.

23/10

19.30 - Group performance II, by VARIA2009s Nordic group.

ca 21.00 - "*after dance... before the end*" Solo by Rosalind Crisp dancer choreografer from Australia/France.

Rosalind Crisp generates movement from any part of her body, at any speed or level, with any force or direction, for any duration ... at any time. Her solo is about the body dancing, about the person who is dancing, and about this 'body' in response to the context of this event.

24/10

19.30 - Group performance III, by VARIA2009s Nordic group.

ca 21.00 - *Lying, stealing, cheating & self deception* - Solo by Andrew Morrish performance artist from Australia/France.

Andrew Morrish's performance aesthetic is a kind of postmodern, physical stand-up comedy. He runs with the moment, gets lost in a thought - a master storyteller, weaving non-linear tales with incredible dexterity and textural complexity. Improvisation is key to Morrish's performance style, as he riffs on words, meditates on moments and sporadically leaps around the stage.

Tessa Needham.

25/10

17.00 - 19.00 - *Meet me in the Foyer* - Lecture by Henrik Svensson PhD student and Licentiate of philosophy at the University of Skövde.

When we think of an object or an action, exactly the same neural mechanisms in the brain are activated as when we see an object or an action in reality. This is known as reactivation and forms one of the basic simulation theory concepts in Cognitive Science. Reactivation can also occur when we see someone doing something, playing tennis for example. The same mechanisms in the brain are activated, as if we were playing tennis ourselves...

Tickets/info;

www.atalante.org

+46 (0)31 7118200, atalante@atalante.org

Below; detailed presentation of program & photo, in order of appearance!

VARIA2009 is funded by Konstnärsnämnden, Nordisk Kulturfond, Göteborgs Stad Kultur, Västra Götalandsregionen & Konst och kulturutveckling Danskontoret, AB Volvo. VARIA2009, in collaboration with ABF, Borås Konstmuseum, Stenungsunds Kommun, Danscentrum Väst. Thanks to Konstepidemin, Hotell Maria.



17.00 - 19.00

**Möt mig i foajen - samtalsforum lett av forskare bjuder in till:
Gestaltat föredrag och öppet samtal av och med Cecilia Lagerström,
i samarbete med Helena Kågemark.**

Perspektiv på improvisation, devising och förhållandet mellan aktörens görande och åskådarens upplevande.

Här blandas teori, praktik, samtal och konst i en och samma form...

Cecilia Lagerström, forskare, regissör och lektor i scenisk gestaltning på Högskolan för scen och musik i Göteborg. I samarbete med scenkonstnären och masterstudenten Helena Kågemark.

Meet me in the Foyer - discussion forum lead by researchers.

Perspectives on improvisation, on devising and on the relationship between artist involvement and audience experience. With Cecilia Lagerström, in cooperation with Helena Kågemark.

Theory, practice, discussion and art merge, in one and the same form...

A lecture/demonstration and open discussion with Cecilia Lagerström, who is a researcher, theatredirector and teacher at the Academy for Music and Drama in Gothenburg. In collaboration with Helena Kågemark, performer and MA student.

Cecilia har en bakgrund som regissör och forskare. Parallellt med sin konstnärliga verksamhet gick hon forskarutbildningen i teatervetenskap och disputerade 2003. Hon kommer bland annat ur en fysisk laboratorietradition, som hennes avhandling "Former för liv och teater - Institutet för Scenkonst och tyst kunande" behandlar.

Cecilia har alltid drivits av sitt starka intresse för undersökande verksamhet i olika former och kämpade länge med att försöka överbrygga klyftan mellan sina egna två ben: teori och praktik. Därför har hon gärna bedrivit utvecklingsprojekt inom teater när hon arbetat praktiskt, och involverat sin egen konstnärliga praktik i akademiska sammanhang.

Sedan 2005 arbetar Cecilia på Högskolan för scen och musik i Göteborg, i huvudsak på teatersidan. Hon undervisar och handleder på kandidat, master och forskarnivå. Cecilia har varit drivande i att utveckla konstnärlig forskning inom teater på högskolan, bedrivit ett eget forskningsprojekt och ansvarar idag för forskarutbildningen samt studenters undersökande projekt.

Helena Kågemark är lindansare och scenkonstnär, med mångårig verksamhet inom cirkus, teater och scenkonst. För närvarande går hon Masterutbildningen i teater på Högskolan för scen och musik och gör ett fördjupningsarbete kring skådespelarens skapande i förhållande till minne, närvaro och tid.

19.30 Opening speaker Nina Bondesson.

Nina is a visual artist and writer, promoting education and knowledge within the arts.

19.45 Biology Session Nr. 9

Solo by Michael Schumacher
dancer and choreografer from Holland/USA.

Biology Session Nr. 9 is the most recent in a series of improvisation performances that Michael Schumacher initiated several years ago in Japan. In these events, Schumacher brings the realm of sensory perception into focus by creating a unique dialogue between himself and his environment. Seeing scent, smelling sound, and listening to light are a few of the thoughts proposed throughout this performance.

Michael has been a friend and colleague as well as an inspiration for several years. A festival such as VARIA2009 would be a bit empty without him. Michael is an excellent performer and dancer with an understanding for that which exists in the moment, combined with a great sense of humour.

Lisa Larsdotter Petersson Project leader VARIA .

In VARIA2009 Michael Schumacher is also facilitating a workshop for students; *"Performance improvisation"* 24/10 - 25/10 at Danscentrum Väst (Dancecentre) Årlegatan 3 Gothenburg.

www.varia-impro.se Registration workshop; workshop@varia-impro.se



Michael Schumacher photo Steven Schumacher

ca 21.15 Concert by Vialka

Marylise Frecheville percussion & voice and Eric Boros guitar & voice.



Eric Boros & Marylise Frecheville photo Adam Faraday

Vialka hail from deepest France, via everywhere and nowhere. They are a devilishly high-spirited guitar/drums duo who tour hard and fast across the world. Their music skips joyfully across borders, channeling desert blues, Chinese folk songs, scatter rock and European gypsy song dynamics in a whirlwind of dervish energy. Their endless gypsy punk folk rock tales, hard hitting poly-rhythms and yelps and howls make for a danceable and intoxicating brew. Like A Hawk And A Hacksaw or The Ex their openness to new sounds and cultures makes you feel alive and shows that 'world punk rock' need not be a dirty phrase.

Vialka's music is based on the frenetic interaction between Marylise's syncopated drumming and singing and Eric's orchestral guitar playing - and is delivered with ecstatic energy, humor, lust for life, and a sophisticated musical language and subliminal connection all their own.

The concert is an arrangement by Koloni/Christian Pallin and VARIA2009.

19.30

Group performance I

by VARIA2009's Nordic group

VARIA2009's Nordic group contains of artists and performers involved in the genres of dance, music, video and light. The participants from Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden are specially invited to VARIA. During an intensive period, the group has, amongst other things, focused in different ways on the interaction of media, developing thoughts and practice.

Some of the results combined with new adventures, are presented during VARIA2009, in three unique performances. It all comes together in dancers, Pia Lindy and Giorgio Convertito from Finland and Erikk McKenzie from Norway, video artists Mona Bentzen from Norway and Christina Hallström from Sweden/Holland, musicians Christian Skjødt from Denmark and Lisa Dillan from Norway, light and stage designers Niklas Pohlman and Johan Rödström and dancer Lisa Larsdotter Petersson from Sweden.



ca 21.00

An empty room...

Solo by Sten Rudstrøm movement and performance artist from Germany/USA.

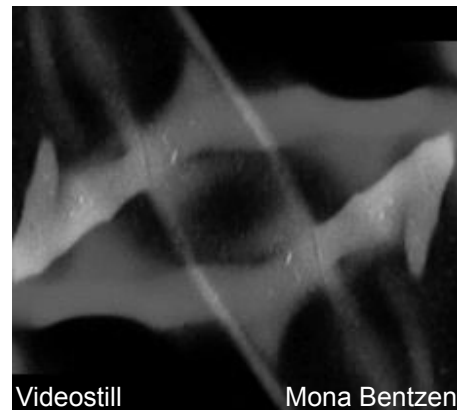
"An empty room. Sten Rudstrøm enters the stage. He doesn't know what is going to happen. There's no script, no preconceived thoughts or ideas. From out of the emptiness he crafts a landscape of dance, speech and song. At the intersection of the present, imagination and life experience he morphs into stories of strange characters, pictures, places and things. A wild, unpredictable, unique journey through raw human nature."

"In The world of awareness little difference exists between theater and the street. Who we are, how we think we are and how we work with our perceptions and reactions is the same everywhere. In Action Theater, we improvise inside of forms that have movement and theatrical frameworks, yet what we learn affects our daily lives..."

If there is any truth to the meaning supernatural, Sten could be a perfectly sane answer. "Where does that strange sound come from!? What is making me feel like that there might be something behind my back!?" Sten is an artist who seriously plays with voice, movement and emotions in an intelligent, crazy and unpredictable way. Lisa Larsdotter Petersson Project leader VARIA

In VARIA2009 Sten Rudstrøm is facilitating a workshop for students; *Action Theatre* - 17/10 - 18/10. Classes by Sten is also available from 19/10 - 22/10, at Danscentrum Väst (Dancecentre) Ärlegatan 3 Gothenburg. www.varia-impro.se
Registration workshop; workshop@varia-impro.se

More about the participants in Nordic group and about Sten - Last page!



Videostill

Mona Bentzen

19.30

Group performance II

by VARIA2009's Nordic group

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Rosalind Crisp

photo Anne Solé

ca 21.00

"after dance... before the end"

A Solo by Rosalind Crisp dancer and choreografer from Australia/France.

Rosalind Crisp generates movement from any part of her body, at any speed or level, with any force or direction, for any duration ... at any time. Her solo is about the body dancing, about the person who is dancing, and about this 'body' in response to the context of this event.

As a tribute to the kitchen staff, Rosalind did a dance performance in the pantry, during a festival last summer. The lunch was very good and then I had the privilege to see her perform again! Rosalind is not only generously giving away her bodily thoughts in a dance piece; she is also using herself, closely attached to the rhythm of movement in nature. Lisa Larsdotter Petersson Project leader VARIA

In VARIA2009 Rosalind Crisp is facilitating a workshop for students; *"choreographic improvisation"* - 26/10 - 27/10. Classes by Rosalind is also available from 26/10 - 29/10, at Danscentrum Väst (Dancecentre) Årlegatan 3 Gothenburg.
www.varia-impro.se Registration workshop; workshop@varia-impro.se

More about the participants in Nordic group and about Rosalind - Last page!

19.30

Group performance III

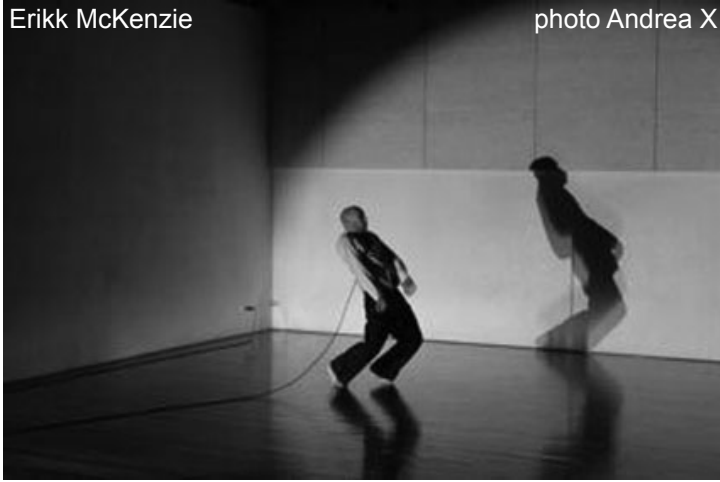
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Erikk McKenzie

photo Andrea X



Andrew Morrish

photo A. Rosset

ca 21.00

Lying, stealing, cheating & self deception.

A Solo by Andrew Morrish performance artist from Australia/France.

"Andrew Morrish's performance aesthetic is a kind of postmodern, physical stand-up comedy. He runs with the moment, gets lost in a thought - a master storyteller, weaving non-linear tales with incredible dexterity and textural complexity. Improvisation is key to Morrish's performance style, as he riffs on words, meditates on moments and sporadically leaps around the stage". Tessa Needham.

Andrew's appearance, his approach to performance and to the art of improvisation is something that I will carry with me for a long time. To see him perform, to create stories and visualize landscapes in an empty room, is like being thrown into a dreamlike situation where imagination is the perfect state of mind.

Lisa Larsdotter Petersson Project leader VARIA

In VARIA2009 Andrew Morrish is also facilitating a workshop for students; *Language, voice, movement* - 29/10 - 1/11. A work in progress by students will be presented at Danscentrum Väst (Dancecentre) Ärlegatan 3 Gothenburg. 1/11 16.30 - 17.30. www.varia-impro.se Registration workshop; workshop@varia-impro.se

More about the participants in the Nordic group and about Andrew - Last page!

17.00 - 19.00**Möt mig i foajen - samtalsforum lett av forskare bjuder in till;
*Den inre världen och människans förmåga till simulering...*****Föredrag och samtal av och med Henrik Svensson**

“När vi tänker på ett föremål aktiveras samma mekanismer i hjärnan som när vi ser föremålet i verkligheten. Detta kallas för återaktivering och är en av de grundläggande idéerna i simuleringsteorin inom kognitionsvetenskapen.

Simulering av perception och handling förklarar delar av människans (och vissa djurs) förmåga att skapa en inre värld där olika handlingsalternativ kan utvärderas utan att behöva testa dem i verkligheten, d v s vår förmåga att, som Karl Popper en gång ska ha sagt, låta våra hypoteser dö i vårt ställe. Till skillnad från tidigare teorier förklarar simuleringsteorin den inre världen utan att använda sig av abstrakta koncept helt skilda från grundläggande fysiologiska processer”.

Henrik har hittat tre mekanismer som han anser återfinns i all simuleringsteori.

Återaktivering som de övriga (och Binding; varför uppfattar vi en stol som just en stol och Predikation; förväntan) bygger på är den mest basala mekanismen och innebär att samma mekanismer aktiveras när vi tänker på ett föremål som när vi ser föremålet i verkligheten. Återaktivering kan också handla om att när vi ser en annan person göra något, t ex spela tennis, så aktiveras samma mekanismer i hjärnan som när vi själva spelar.

Henrik Svensson läste kognitionsvetenskapligt program på Högskolan i Skövde 1998-2001. Han tog en magisterexamen i datavetenskap 2002 och arbetade som lärare på Högskolan fram till 2004 då han påbörjade sina doktorandstudier. Hans licentiatavhandling har titeln ”Embodied simulation as off-line representation”. Henrik Svensson har i huvudsak genomfört sin forskning vid Högskolan i Skövde.

One of the greatest discoveries of the 21st century is the plasticity of the brain.

That the lives we live shape the brain we develop. Body posture and movement are imagery driven, and if the image doesn't correspond to the way the body is designed, the result will be a steady decline in function.

The best way to improve function is to start with an image that corresponds to how the body is designed. Among else artists address the mind through the use of imagery in all its applications. Eric Franklin



Meet me in the Foyer - discussion forum lead by researchers.

When we think of an object or an action...

A lecture by Henrik Svensson PhD student and Licentiate of philosophy from Sweden.

When we think of an object or an action, exactly the same neural mechanisms in the brain are activated as when we see an object or an action in reality.

This is known as reactivation and forms one of the basic simulation theory concepts in Cognitive Science. Reactivation can also occur when we see someone doing something, playing tennis for example. The same mechanisms in the brain are activated, as if we were playing tennis ourselves.

Henrik Svensson, PhD student at the University of Skövde and Linköping University, was recently awarded a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Cognitive Science.

Short about participants VARIA2009 - International artists

Michael Schumacher is a performing artist with roots in classical and modern dance. He has been a member of several groundbreaking companies, including Ballet Frankfurt, Twyla Tharp Dance, Feld Ballet, Pretty Ugly Dance Company, and Magpie Music Dance Company. Working as dancer, choreographer, and teacher, Schumacher has developed a unique approach to the discipline of improvisation. He has collaborated with many pioneering musicians, including percussionist Han Bennink, violinist Mary Oliver, and cellist/composer Alex Waterman. He currently resides in Amsterdam and conducts workshops in movement analysis and improvisation worldwide.

Sten Rudström is an improvisational performer. In 2005/06, he co-founded two international improvisation performance ensembles: Streugut, in Berlin, with Ingo Reluecke, Zufit Simon, Martin Clausen, and Alexander Frangenheim; EAT with Sabine von der Tann, Andres Noormets, Kate Hilder, and Peter Krempelsetzer. He currently performs duets with Andrew Morrish and collaborates with inkBoat/Shinichi Iova-Koga. He has worked extensively with Ruth Zaporah, developer of the improvisational performance training process Action Theater™. He teaches and performs throughout the United States and Europe.

Rosalind Crisp After training in classical and contemporary dance, Rosalind studied release, BMC® and Contact Improvisation at the EDDC in Arnhem, Holland. She established the Omeo Dance studio in Sydney as a site for her choreographic research for over 10 years, receiving a number of awards and a choreographic fellowship from the Australia Council (1999-2001). Since 2003 her company is based in Paris where she is a choreographic associate of the Atelier de Paris - Carolyn Carlson and teaches and performs throughout Europe.

Andrew Morrish has been engaged in performance Improvisation since he began working with Al Wunder in Melbourne in 1982. With Peter Trotman he created "Trotman and Morrish" from 1987 to 1999, during which time they performed extensively in Australia and also in universities and festivals in the U.S. Andrew now teaches solo improvisation extensively in Europe and Australia. In 2009 he was appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Huddersfield.

Short about participants VARIA2009 - Nordic group

Christina Hallström works both as a Visual artist and Filmmaker of documentaries, art-, music- and dance-films. She has since several years back participated as a visual artist in several performances. Christina also practices Body Weather training regularly. Christina was born in Sweden and is based in Amsterdam.

Johan Rödström bor i Sverige och har gått scenografutbildningen på Dramatiska Institutet vid sidan av verksamhet som regissör och ljusdesigner. Han drev under 90-talet Unga Studion - scen för ny ospelad dramatik, och är nu medlem i Göteborgsteatern Aktör.

Lisa Dillan is Improvising singer, Composer and Performance artist from Norway. She has been touring all over the world and worked in a great range of different projects with visual artists and dancers. Lisa also composes music to films and is touring all over the world with different projects. She has a Masters degree in Improvisation: Which processes does an artist have to go through, to increase their capacity as an improvising artist?

Lisa Larsdotter Petersson dance and visual artist. Lisa has among else studied Philosophy, Photography, Sculpture, Movement techniques and Instant composition. Improvisation is an essential tool in her work when creating installations and performance, as well as presenting multi-disciplinary work. Lisa has initiated and produced several gatherings of international and national artists. VARIA is one of these projects.

Giorgio Convertito was born in Italy and is based in Finland. He works as a Dancer, Choreographer and Teacher. Improvisation/ Instant Composition is the main interest and influence in his work and he is one of the leading figures at the Helsinki improvisation scene. Since 06 Giorgio has been organizing and curates The Helsinki Meeting Point. He is currently obsessing with the question: why do we make dances?

Mona Bentzen from Norway is among else educated in The National Academy of the Arts in Bergen. She works with documentary, video art, mixed media and installation. Her main theme is loss connected to love in a broader meaning within relationships, family, society, prostitution, religion and so on. She is the founder of Artvideoexchange.

Pia Lindy from Finland is Performer, Dancer and Writer. She has produced various solo pieces and projects, collaborated with artists of different fields and is a member of several committees that is organizing festivals and events in Finland. Pia also writes articles and in her artistic work she is trying to investigate questions dealing with expectations and values embodied on human choices and actions in art and life.

Christian Skjødt was born in Denmark and received a master's degree in drums and music technology from The Academy of Music in Aalborg. He received several awards for his music and he curates and is managing the record label Tonometer Music. Christian mainly works with improvised music and has a great interest in the interaction between different art forms.

Erikk McKenzie studied fine art and dance in Norway before moving to Amsterdam where he received a Bachelor degree in dance and choreography from School for New Dance Development. He is currently working as a musician, video, artist, choreographer and performer, his interest lies naturally in the crossing of disciplines. Erikk finds inspiration in the change of context – between cultures, between fields of specialization, looking for new reference points for perception.

Niklas Pohlman från Sverige är ljus designer med bred erfarenhet. Han har bland annat arbetat som ljus, ljud och bild projektledare i flertalet projekt, jobbat med audiovisuella lösningar i utställningssammanhang vid sidan av inspicient uppdrag och arbete som AV-tekniker på Volvos konferensanläggning. Han har också varit ljus- och ljudansvarig på Göteborgs musikhögskola.

Short about participants VARIA2009 - Vialka

Marylise Frecheville was put on stage when she was three years old and became addicted to it. After questioning her academic training in dance, drama and piano, she joined her first "rebel-without-a-cause" teenage garage band in 1993 - playing keyboards, singing out-of-tune, and eventually beating the skins. After delving in Art-Nouveau architecture (with a degree from Lille Régions Nord University of Architecture, France), running after rabbits, and boozing until brain failure, she returned to the stage on drums and classical percussion (studies at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Canada) - constantly pushing insanity and constipation further away. Frecheville suffers from an acutely selective memory, but this this has yet to prevent her from being extremely prolific; composing music, writing lyrics, rehearsing, improvising, and performing her lurid dances, intricate drum beats, and bewitching serenades with Vialka on a near daily basis.

Eric Boros began his musical career as a school fanfare trumpeter at a early age. Since then he has performed numerous times in many different nation states around the world, and has participated in a plethora of phonographic recordings - despite having crumpled his trumpet long ago in a fit of rage. Self-taught composer and improviser, he plays baritone and standard acoustic and electric guitars, jaw harp, and is notorious for his dissonant vocal crooning and caterwauling. Although he claims to live without electricity or any modern appliances (other than his solar-powered shortwave radio and guitar amplification devices), he is an atavistic electrician, and has used this unskill to construct electronic gadgets to generate accompaniment frequencies to his symphonic pieces.